

~~TOP SECRET CHESSE RUFF~~

21 March 1965

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ROCKET ENGINE TEST FACILITY
VORONEZH, USSR

1. THIS INSTALLATION WAS FIRST OBSERVED ON [REDACTED] AT THAT TIME IT CONSISTED OF A SECURED AREA CONTAINING ONE LARGE BUILDING WITH TWO PROBABLE HORIZONTAL FIRING BAYS AND SEVERAL OTHER SMALL MISCELLANEOUS BUILDINGS. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY WAS EVIDENT IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE THE SECURED AREA.
2. SIXTEEN SUBSEQUENT KH MISSIONS REVEALED THAT BY APR 62, THE FACILITY HAD BEEN ENLARGED TO THE SOUTH AND THAT ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION HAD TAKEN PLACE. THIS WAS THE FIRST EVIDENCE THAT A VERTICAL TEST FACILITY WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. CONTINUING EXPANSION AND CONSTRUCTION WAS EVIDENT THROUGHOUT 1962 AND 1963. IN DEC 63, A POSSIBLE VERTICAL TEST STAND AND A LARGE BUILDING WERE VISIBLE IN THE NEWLY ENLARGED SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE FACILITY; TWO NEW HORIZONTAL TEST CELLS WERE DISCERNIBLE IN THE ORIGINAL TEST AREA; AND RAIL FACILITIES TO SERVE THE INSTALLATION WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION. JUNE 64 PHOTOGRAPHY CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF A LARGE VERTICAL TEST STAND AND ASSOCIATED CONTROL AND CHECKOUT BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE FACILITY. NEW CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED NORTHWEST OF THE TEST STAND AND, BY SEP 64, COULD BE IDENTIFIED AS A SECOND VERTICAL TEST STAND UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

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3. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY HAS BEEN OBSERVED ONLY ONCE AT THIS SITE WHEN, IN DEC 63, BLAST SCARS WERE OBSERVED AT TWO OF THE HORIZONTAL TEST CELLS. HOWEVER, THE ORIGINAL TEST CELLS WERE BELIEVED TO BE OPERATIONAL IN 1960.
4. THIS MISSION REVEALS THAT CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON THE TWO VERTICAL TEST STANDS AND THAT NEW CONSTRUCTION IS OBSERVED IMMEDIATELY SOUTH-EAST. THREE OF THE BLAST PITS AT THE 4 HORIZONTAL TEST CELLS IN THE OLDER PORTION OF THE FACILITY SHOW EVIDENCE OF RECENT TEST ACTIVITY. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY NEAR THESE CELLS CONSISTS OF FOUNDATIONS FOR A NEW BUILDING TO THE NW, AND DITCHES TO THE SW. SEVERAL PIECES OF UNIDENTIFIED EQUIPMENT ARE VISIBLE IN THE FACILITY. THE RAIL SPUR SERVING THE INSTALLATION APPEARS OPERATIONAL.

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